

makes no sense. People of good will know better.

I would ask my colleagues to join with us in voting for the future and the economy of this country.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

##### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1128, H.R. 7005, the Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Byron L. Dorgan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., E. Benjamin Nelson, Joseph Lieberman, Sherrod Brown, Claire McCaskill, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Akaka, Barbara A. Mikulski, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher J. Dodd, Patty Murray, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Richard Durbin, Frank R. Lautenberg.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 7005, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote "yea."

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), would have voted "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR.) Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

Akaka	Dorgan	Murray
Bayh	Durbin	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Feinstein	Pryor
Boxer	Harkin	Reed
Brown	Inouye	Rockefeller
Brownback	Johnson	Salazar
Byrd	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cantwell	Kohl	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Snowe
Carper	Lautenberg	Specter
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Clinton	Levin	Voinovich
Collins	Lieberman	Warner
Conrad	Lugar	Webb
Dodd	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Dole	Menendez	
Domenici	Mikulski	

#### NAYS—35

Allard	DeMint	McCain
Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Grassley	Reid
Bunning	Gregg	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Sessions
Chambliss	Hutchison	Shelby
Coburn	Inhofe	Tester
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Coleman	Kyl	Vitter
Corker	Lincoln	Wicker
Crapo	Martinez	

#### NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Graham	Smith
Biden	Hagel	Stevens
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sununu
Craig	Kerry	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 35. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 7005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the night is late. Morning is fast approaching. I appreciate everyone's cooperation. We are going to be in a series of pro forma sessions and likely we will be doing no more work until we come back after the reconvening of the new Congress.

I appreciate everyone's work over the past many hours. I have already given my remarks. I only say that I would hope the President, who has worked so well with us the past few weeks on this legislation, would now consider using TARP money to help the auto industry and the workers of this country. Any conditions that were proposed by all Senators—Senator CORKER, Senator DODD; anything they wanted to put in there, they could do anything they wanted. I would hope they would consider that and do it as early as tomorrow.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut.

#### THANKING STAFF

Mr. DODD. Madam President, as Members are leaving, I would be remiss if I did not express my very deep and sincere gratitude to some remarkable people who, like all of us, have staff members who do incredible jobs who never get the recognition they deserve. They worked over these past 8 or 9 days literally until 2 and 3 and 4 in the morning—night after night after night—in an effort to put together a package here that would win the approval of our colleagues. These remarkable young men and women have just served our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Could people take their conversations outside the Chamber while the Senator from Connecticut thanks the staff.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank you.

I want to begin by thanking the staff director of the Banking Committee, Shawn Maher. He is the father of a young 11-year-old boy, and I don't think he has probably seen Aidan much over the last number of months, let alone the last week or so, because he has dedicated himself to the work of this Chamber, this body. So I begin by thanking Shawn Maher.

I also thank Aaron Klein, Amy Friend, Dean Shahinian, Neal Orringer, and Deborah Katz; from Senator REID's staff, Mark Wetjen; from Senator DURBIN's staff, Brad McConnell; from Legislative Counsel, Laura Ayoud, who does a remarkable job for all of us.

There are many others, but these are the ones who principally did the work night after night, day after day, non-stop through the weekends, to try to package here a proposal that would win our support. And I apologize to them. We were not able to do it. I feel badly myself that maybe their Members did not probably work as hard as maybe we should have after all the effort they put in. But I want them to know, as we come into this holiday season, there are many people who in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to these people who worked so tirelessly on their behalf but never get the credit and the recognition they deserve.

So this evening I thank them immensely for what they have done, and we will be back another day to fight again, and my hope is to make a difference for people in our country. But we all owe them a debt of gratitude, and I am particularly grateful to each and every one of them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### THANKING MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. REID. Madam President, I will be very quick.